

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 COLOMB 00876 111221Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SSC-01  
EB-08 COME-00 AGRE-00 /061 W  
-----111303Z 123924 /53

R 111031Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6880

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 0876

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PINT, CE

SUBJECT: CABINET RESHUFFLE

REF: COLOMBO 0750

1. AS A RESULT OF THE RESIGNATION OF INDUSTRIES MINISTER  
T.B. SUBASINGHE MARCH 1(REFTEL) AND OF THE GOVERNMENT'S  
PRE-ELECTION EMPHASIS ON IMPORTS OF FOOD AND TEXTILES, SOME  
CABINET PORTFOLIOS WERE RESHUFFLED MARCH 11. THE ONLY NEW  
FULL CABINET MEMBER IS V.T. G. KARUNARATNE, FORMER DEPUTY  
MINISTER OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS, WHO WAS MADE  
MINISTER OF TEXTILE INDUSTRY, A NEW PORTFOLIO DESIGNED TO  
CONCENTRATE ATTENTION ON THE POOR PRODUCTION OF STATE  
TEXTILE FACTORIES AND PRESUMABLY TO COORDINATE INCREASED  
CLOTH IMPORTS (THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE ALLOCATION FOR  
TEXTILE IMPORTS ROSE 208 PERCENT FROM 1976 TO 1977).

2. FELIX R.DIAS BANDARANAIKE GAVE UP HIS JUSTICE PORTFOLIO,  
EXCHANGING IT FOR THAT OF FOOD AND COOPERATIVES, WHILE  
KEEPING HIS MOST IMPORTANT JOB AS MINISTER OF FINANCE.  
FOOD IMPORTS, EXPECIALLY SUCH HIGH-PRICED STAPLES AS  
PULSES, ARE DUE TO BE STEPPED UP RADICALLY IN COMING  
MONTHS; DISTRIBUTION, THROUGH THE COOPERATIVES, IS  
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ALWAYS A DIFFICULT EXERCISE AND ONE THAT FELIX WOULD  
LIKE TO STREAMLINE. THERE ARE ALSO STRONG RUMORS THAT  
THE RICE RATION WILL BE INCREASED SUBSTANTIALY AS SOON AS  
SUFFICIENT STOCKS CAN BE ACCUMULATED. IN A RELATED  
DEVELOPMENT, WE UNDERSTAND THE FOOD COMMISSIONER, M.B.  
SENANAYAKE, IS TO BE REPLACED IN A FEW DAYS.

3. NEW MINISTER OF JUSTICE IS RATNASIRI WICKREMANAYAKE,  
WHO CONTINUES AS MINISTER OF PLANTATION INDUSTRIES AS WELL.

4. S.K. K. SURIYARACHCHI, FORMERLY MINISTER OF FOOD,  
COOPERATIVES, AND SMALL INDUSTRIES, TAKES OVER INSTEAD  
SUBASINGHE'S PORTFOLIO OF INDUSTRIES AND SCIENTIFIC  
AFFAIRS. THE PRESENCE OF A MORE MIDDLE -OF-THE-ROAD  
MINISTER SHOULD PLEASE THOSE INDUSTRIALISTS WHO FOUND  
IT HARD-GOING UNDER LEFTIST T.B. SUBASINGHE.

6. COMMENT: WITH THE NATIONAL STATE ASSEMBLY DUE TO BE  
DISSOLVED IN TEN WEEKS, THE NEW MINISTERS WILL HAVE  
ONLY A SHORT TIME IN OFFICE WITH MOST OF THEIR EFFORT  
DEVOTED TO ENHANCING THE PARTY'S PROSPECTS FOR ELECTION.

REED

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CABINET, REORGANIZATIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977COLOMB00876  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770084-0686  
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**Message ID:** 5adb3dba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 COLOMBO 750  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
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**Review Date:** 23-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3142140  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CABINET RESHUFFLE  
**TAGS:** PINT, CE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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